

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) An image reader comprising:
a reading glass plate provided in an optical scanning system, said reading glass plate being provided with an electro-conductive treatment on the surface; and
a platen roller provided opposing to said reading glass plate, said platen roller having in contact with an electricity escaping brush.

2. (Original) An image reader comprising:
a supply roller for delivering a sheet material out of stacked sheets; a first separation roller;
a second separation roller and a third separation roller provided on a shaft of said first separation roller;
a retardation roller containing torque limiter, said retardation roller nipping the sheet material in collaboration with said first separation roller; and
a pair of corrugation rollers provided on a shaft of said retardation roller at respective locations corresponding to a place between said first separation roller and said second separation roller, and a place between said first separation roller and said third separation roller.

3. (Original) The image reader of claim 2, wherein said corrugation rollers are eccentric to the shaft of said retardation roller.

4. (Original) A sheet feeder comprising:
a supply roller for delivering a sheet material out of stacked sheets; a first separation roller;
a second separation roller and a third separation roller provided on a shaft of said first separation roller,

a retardation roller containing torque limiter, said retardation roller nipping the sheet material in collaboration with said first separation roller; and
a pair of corrugation rollers provided on a shaft of said retardation roller at respective locations corresponding to a place between said first separation roller and said second separation roller, and a place between said first separation roller and said third separation roller.

5. (Original) The sheet feeder of claim 4, wherein said corrugation rollers are eccentric to the shaft of said retardation roller.

6. (Original) An image reader comprising:
a supply roller for delivering a sheet material out of the stacked sheets; and
a pair of rollers consisting of a separation roller and a retardation roller; wherein
said supply roller is temporarily separated from said sheet material after said sheet material is nipped by said separation roller and said retardation roller.

7. (Original) A sheet feeder comprising:
a supply roller for delivering a sheet material out of the stacked sheets; and
a pair of rollers consisting of a separation roller and a retardation roller;
a pluralities of torque limiters, each of said torque limiter having different torque value and being disposed between said retardation roller and a shaft for driving the retardation roller; and
means for switching said pluralities of torque limiters.

8. (Original) The sheet feeder of claim 7, wherein said switching means engages said shaft with respective torque limiters in accordance with revolving direction of said shaft.

9. (Original) The sheet feeder of claim 7, further comprising means for adjusting a nipping force between said separation roller and said retardation roller in accordance with a switching conducted by said switching means.

10. (Original) The sheet feeder of claim 7, further comprising means for detecting a thickness of said sheet material, said detecting means controlling said switching means in accordance with the thickness of said sheet material.

11. (New) The image reader of claim 2, further comprising:
a reading glass plate provided in an optical scanning system, said reading glass plate being provided with an electroconductive layer on a surface thereof; and
a plate roller opposing to said reading glass plate, said platen roller being in contact with an electricity escaping brush.